

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 706

By Favors

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bishop James M. Scott of Holy Temple Church of God in Christ as a distinguished citizen of Hamilton County, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Bishop James M. Scott, who has faithfully served as Pastor of Holy Temple Church of God in Christ since 1957, is one such servant of the Lord; and

WHEREAS, James M. Scott was one of eight boys raised alone by their mother after the death of their father in 1948; of the eight boys, six became preachers, five of whom became pastors and superintendents and two of whom ultimately became bishops; and

WHEREAS, called by God to the ministry at the young age of fourteen while living in Mississippi, James M. Scott was ordained as a minister at the age of nineteen and led by the Lord to travel to Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1956; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Bishop James Scott was appointed to Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, which at that time was housed in a little unfinished frame building; and

WHEREAS, feeling led to spread the Gospel and build the flock, Pastor Scott was led to downtown Chattanooga where he preached in a storefront on 8<sup>th</sup> Street that the church rented for four years before the congregation grew large enough to start a building fund to expand their church; and

WHEREAS, praying to God for direction, Pastor Scott and the Holy Temple Church of God returned to Bozontown where the church had first started, building on their small lot that was perfectly sized for the church; and

WHEREAS, continuing to grow, Holy Temple Church of God has enjoyed several expansions over the years, adding a fellowship hall, facilities, and now a new temple, resulting in the church today nearly covering the entire block in addition to owning several plots of land and houses nearby; and

WHEREAS, a general contractor, Bishop Scott has been able to build everything at Holy Temple Church of God in Christ and now plans to build houses, with the profits from sales being utilized to pay off the cost of the temple in five years; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Scott is a firm believer in seeking guidance from God with prayer and fasting, understanding its power and knowing after more than forty-eight years in the ministry that it works; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Scott and the Holy Temple Church of God in Christ have built a strong relationship with the community, and today it is one of the leading churches in Chattanooga, enjoying success both spiritually and financially; and

WHEREAS, the Holy Temple Church of God in Christ has been blessed to also enjoy the membership of three other contractors in the church, Brothers Curtis Drake, Joseph Jones, and Mark Scott, in addition to Bishop James Scott; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Scott has used his vision and compassion to thrust the Church into service as a beacon of light for twenty-first century ministry; he feels that he would have missed the mark if he didn't prepare people for Heaven, as he seeks to shepherd the lost and lead them to Christ; and

WHEREAS, Bishop James M. Scott is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife of more than fifty-one years, Mother Virginia Scott; and

WHEREAS, Bishop James M. Scott exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Bishop Scott has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED  
FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE  
CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Bishop James M. Scott for his many years of  
honorable service and spiritual inspiration to Holy Temple Church of God in Christ and wish him  
every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared  
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.